

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
MARSHALL DIVISION

GEOTAG, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

RENT-A-CENTER, INC., *et al.*,

Defendants.

§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§

Civil Action No. 2:10-CV-00573-TJW-CE

**DEFENDANT AS AMERICA, INC.'S ORIGINAL ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S  
COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT AND COUNTERCLAIMS**

Defendant AS America, Inc. ("Defendant") hereby answers the Complaint for Patent Infringement ("Complaint") asserted by Plaintiff Geotag, Inc. ("Plaintiff"), and would show the Court as follows:

**PARTIES**

1. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 1 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

2. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 2 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

3. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 3 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

4. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 4 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

5. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 5 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

6. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 6 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

7. Defendant admits that it has a place of business in Piscataway, New Jersey. By way of further answer, Defendant states that it is unrelated to Applied Industrial Technologies, Inc.

8. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 8 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

9. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 9 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

10. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 10 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

11. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 11 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

12. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 12 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

13. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 13 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

14. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 14 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

15. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 15 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

16. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 16 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

17. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 17 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

18. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 18 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

19. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 19 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

20. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 20 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

21. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 21 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

22. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 22 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

23. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 23 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

24. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 24 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

25. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 25 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

26. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 26 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

27. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 27 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

28. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 28 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

29. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 29 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

30. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 30 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

31. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 31 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

32. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 32 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

33. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 33 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

34. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 34 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

35. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 35 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

36. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 36 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

37. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 37 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

38. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 38 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

39. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 39 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

40. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 40 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

41. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 41 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

42. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 42 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

43. The allegations contained in Paragraph 43 of the Complaint state legal conclusions to which Defendant is not required to plead. To the extent an answer is required, however, these allegations are denied.

44. The allegations contained in Paragraph 44 of the Complaint state legal conclusions to which Defendant is not required to plead. To the extent an answer is required, however, these allegations are denied.

45. The allegations contained in Paragraph 45 of the Complaint state legal conclusions to which Defendant is not required to plead. To the extent an answer is required, however, these allegations are denied.

### **COUNT I**

#### **INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 5,930,474**

46. Defendant admits that U.S. Patent No. 5,930,474 (the “474 Patent”) is entitled “Internet Organizer for Accessing Geographically and Topically Based Information” and that it states on its face that it was issued on July 29, 1999.

47. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 47 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

48. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 48 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

49. To the extent the allegations contained in paragraph 49 are directed to Defendant, Defendant denies all of the allegations contained in paragraph 49. Specifically, Defendant denies any infringement of the '474 Patent. With respect to the other defendants in this lawsuit, Defendant is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph 49 as they relate to the other defendants, and on that basis Defendant denies the same.

50. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 50 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

51. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 51 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

52. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 52 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

53. To the extent the allegations contained in paragraph 53 are directed to Defendant, Defendant denies all of the allegations contained in paragraph 53. Specifically, Defendant denies any infringement of the '474 Patent. Defendant denies that it has committed any actions that could constitute infringement of the '474 Patent.

54. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 54 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

55. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 55 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

56. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 56 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

57. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 57 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

58. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 58 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

59. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 59 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

60. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 60 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

61. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 61 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

62. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 62 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

63. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 63 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

64. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 64 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

65. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 65 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

66. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 66 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

67. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 67 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

68. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 68 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

69. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 69 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

70. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 70 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

71. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 71 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

72. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 72 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

73. Defendant lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 73 of the Complaint and, therefore, Defendant denies all such allegations.

74. Defendant denies that it is infringing or has infringed the '474 Patent, and further denies that any alleged infringement could be willful. Defendant further denies any remaining allegations in Paragraph 74

75. To the extent the allegations contained in Paragraph 75 are directed to Defendant, Defendant denies all of the allegations contained in Paragraph 75. Specifically, Defendant

denies that it has infringed the '474 Patent and denies that Plaintiff has suffered any injury as a result of any act of Defendant. Defendant further denies any remaining allegations in Paragraph 75 that pertain to Defendant. With respect to the other defendants in this lawsuit, Defendant is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in Paragraph 75 as they relate to the other defendants, and on that basis Defendant denies the same.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Defendant denies that Plaintiff is entitled to the relief requested or any other relief. To any extent that Geotag avers or makes any allegations in its prayer for relief or elsewhere in its Complaint that was not specifically addressed herein, any such averment and/or allegation is denied.

WHEREFORE, Defendant respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in favor of Defendant and against Geotag, together with an award of costs and attorney fees, along with such other relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

### **DEFENSES**

#### **First Defense**

1. Venue is improper in the Eastern District of Texas.

#### **Second Defense**

2. Plaintiff's Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

#### **Third Defense**

3. Defendant has not infringed and does not infringe, nor has it contributed to any infringement by others, nor has it induced others to infringe any claim of United States Patent No. 5,930,474 (the "'474 Patent").

**Fourth Defense**

4. The claims of the '474 Patent are invalid for failure to comply with the requirements for patentability under the patent laws, including, but not limited to, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112.

**Fifth Defense**

5. Plaintiff's claims are barred in whole or in part by the doctrines of laches and/or estoppel.

**Sixth Defense**

6. To the extent that Plaintiff, licensees, or its predecessors in interest of the '474 Patent failed to properly notify Defendant of the actions alleged to infringe the '474 Patent, including but not limited to, by reason of 35 U.S.C. § 287 or infringement allegations based on indirect infringement, Defendant is not liable to Plaintiff for those allegedly infringing actions performed before receipt of actual notice of allegations that it was infringing the '474 Patent.

**Seventh Defense**

7. Plaintiff's claims are barred in whole or in part by prosecution history estoppel.

**Eighth Defense**

8. Plaintiff's claims are barred in whole or in part by the doctrine of unclean hands.

**Ninth Defense**

9. Plaintiff's claims are barred in whole or in part due to Plaintiff's failure to mitigate damages, if any.

**Tenth Defense**

10. Plaintiff's claims are barred in whole or in part for lack of standing.

**Eleventh Defense**

11. Plaintiff's claims are barred in whole or in part by the doctrine of issue preclusion.

**Twelfth Defense**

12. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 286, Plaintiff's claims are barred in whole or in part for all events occurring more than six years before the filing of this lawsuit.

**Thirteenth Defense**

13. Plaintiff's claims are barred in whole or in part based on the doctrine of patent exhaustion.

**Fourteenth Defense**

14. Plaintiff's claims are barred in whole or in part because all or part of the alleged infringing activity is covered, in whole or in part, by a license and/or covenant not to sue granted by Plaintiff.

**Fifteenth Defense**

15. The '474 Patent is unenforceable as a result of inequitable conduct in its procurement.

**COUNTERCLAIMS**

As set forth above, Defendant contends that venue is improper in the Eastern District of Texas. Accordingly, the counterclaims asserted below in no way constitute a waiver of that or any other defense asserted by Defendant.<sup>1</sup> Thus, subject to and without waiving any of the foregoing defenses, Defendant asserts the following Counterclaims against Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant Geotag, Inc. ("Geotag"):

---

<sup>1</sup>See *Bayou Steel Corp. v. M/V Amstelveorn*, 809 F.2d 1147, 1148-49 (5th Cir. 1987).

**Jurisdiction and Venue**

16. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over the following Counterclaims under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) (2004). This Court has personal jurisdiction over Geotag because it has voluntarily appeared before this Court for all purposes.

17. Venue is proper as to Geotag under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and 1400(b) (2004).

**The Parties**

18. Counterclaim-Plaintiff AS America, Inc. (“AS America”), a Delaware corporation, has its principal place of business in Piscataway, New Jersey.

19. On information and belief, Counterclaim-Defendant Geotag is a Delaware corporation with a place of business in Plano, Texas.

20. Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant Geotag has filed suit in this matter asserting infringement by AS America of the ‘474 Patent. The allegations in the Complaint have created an actual and justiciable controversy between Geotag and AS America concerning infringement, invalidity, and enforcement of the ‘474 Patent.

21. Pursuant to the Declaratory Judgments Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-2202 (2004), AS America is entitled to a declaratory judgment that it has not infringed any valid and enforceable claim of the ‘474 Patent.

**First Counterclaim – Declaratory Judgment of Non-Infringement**

22. AS America incorporates by reference the statements and allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-21 with the same force and effect as though fully rewritten herein.

23. On information and belief, AS America has not infringed and is not infringing any claim of the ‘474 Patent. On information and belief, AS America has not contributorily

infringed and is not contributorily infringing, and has not actively induced infringement and is not actively inducing others to infringe any claim of the '474 Patent.

24. AS America is entitled to a declaratory judgment that it has not infringed and is not infringing (either directly, contributorily, or by inducement) any claim of the '474 Patent, either literally or by the application of the doctrine of equivalents.

**Second Counterclaim – Declaratory Judgment of Invalidity**

25. AS America incorporates by reference the statements and allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-24 with the same force and effect as though fully rewritten herein.

26. The '474 Patent is invalid for failure to meet the conditions set forth in 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103 and 112.

27. AS America is entitled to a declaratory judgment that the '474 Patent is invalid.

28. This is an exceptional case under 35 U.S.C. § 285. Accordingly, AS America is entitled to recover its reasonable attorneys' fees.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, AS America respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in its favor and grant the following relief:

- a. Dismiss the Complaint against AS America for improper venue;
- b. Dismiss with prejudice the Complaint against AS America;
- c. Declare that AS America does not infringe any claim of the '474 Patent;
- d. Declare that the '474 Patent is invalid;
- e. Declare that this is an exceptional case and award AS America its reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285;
- f. Award to AS America its costs and disbursements associated with this action; and

- g. Award any additional relief as the Court may deem appropriate and just under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Brian C. McCormack

Mark D. Taylor

Texas Bar No. 19713250

[mark.taylor@bakermckenzie.com](mailto:mark.taylor@bakermckenzie.com)

Brian C. McCormack

Texas Bar No. 00797036

[brian.mccormack@bakermckenzie.com](mailto:brian.mccormack@bakermckenzie.com)

Nathan A. Engels

Texas Bar No. 24036526

[nathan.engels@bakermckenzie.com](mailto:nathan.engels@bakermckenzie.com)

BAKER & MCKENZIE LLP

2300 Trammell Crow Center

2001 Ross Avenue

Dallas, TX 75201

Tel. (214) 978-3000

Fax (214) 978-3099

COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT/COUNTER-  
PLAINTIFF AS AMERICA, INC.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that on the 28th day of March, 2011, a copy of the foregoing *Defendant AS America, Inc.'s Original Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint for Patent Infringement and Counterclaims* was electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system per Local Rule CV-5(a)(3), which sent a Notification of Electronic Filing (NOEF) to all counsel of record.

/s/ Brian C. McCormack

Brian C. McCormack